

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 23. This sheet, which includes Figs. 21-24, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 21-24. In Fig. 23, the concave upper surface of the coupling element 11, as correctly shown in original Fig. 3, is now correctly shown.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

By the above amendments claims 2, 4, 7, 20 and 22 have been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-14, 16, 18, 21 and 23-26 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-19, 21 and 23-26 are in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16 and 18 as set forth on page 4 of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 16 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to this objection and indication of allowable subject matter, by the above amendments claims 16 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended. The claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

By the above amendments Figure 23 of the application drawings is also be amended to properly show the concave upper surface of the coupling element as correctly shown in original Figure 3 but mistakenly shown in original Figure 23. The drawing change does not introduce new matter into the application. Approval of the amendment to the drawing is requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 14, 17 and 20-23 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Allen, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,653,767, as stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 14 and 20-26 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,514,293 B1 as stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 14, 15 and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Atkinson, et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0087216 A1 as stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,653,767 as stated on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.

These rejections are hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and Applicants' remarks set forth below.

The longitudinally extending foot keel for a prosthetic foot, the prosthetic foot, and the method of absorbing and returning vertical load in a prosthetic foot of the present invention as recited in the application claims as amended utilize the foot keel of the invention which comprises a hindfoot portion having a posterior plantar surface weight bearing area, a forefoot portion having an anterior plantar surface weight bearing area and an upwardly arched midfoot portion monolithically formed with the forefoot portion and extending between the forefoot and hindfoot portions. A posterior end of the upwardly arched midfoot portion is monolithically formed with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface from the upwardly arched midfoot portion and extending anteriorly with a downward facing convexly curved surface to form a coiled spring which terminates in a free end, the coiled spring being compressed to absorb and

expanded to return vertical load during use of the foot keel in a prosthetic foot. The cited references do not disclose, 35 U.S.C. §102, or render obvious, 35 U.S.C. §103, this claimed foot keel, prosthetic foot and method of absorbing and returning vertical load in a prosthetic foot as recited in the claims as amended.

The patent to Allen does not disclose a foot keel with an upwardly arched midfoot portion monolithically formed with the forefoot portion of the foot keel and extending between the forefoot and hindfoot portion, which upwardly arched midfoot portion is monolithically formed with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface from the upwardly arched midfoot portion and extending anteriorly with a downward facing convexly curved surface to form a coiled spring which is compressed to absorb and expanded to return vertical load during use of the foot keel in a prosthetic foot. The arc limiter 50 in Figure 6 of Allen, et al. is anterior facing convexly curved, not posterior facing convexly curved, and is not monolithically formed with an upwardly arched midfoot portion monolithically formed with the forefoot portion of the foot keel as disclosed and claimed by Applicants.

The prosthetic foot of Jang, et al. has a posterior facing coil 109 but the coil does not extend between forefoot and hindfoot portions of the foot keel and is not a single coil but is employed with coil 106. Likewise, the patent to Atkinson, et al., Figure 10B does not disclose a foot keel with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface as disclosed and claimed by Applicants.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended now patentably define over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 183.39735AX5) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

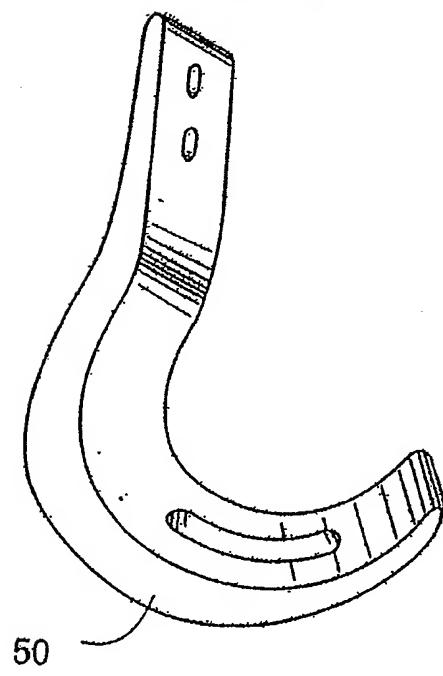
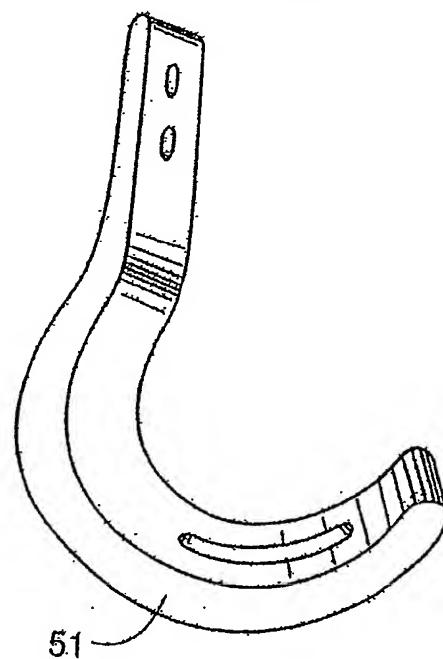
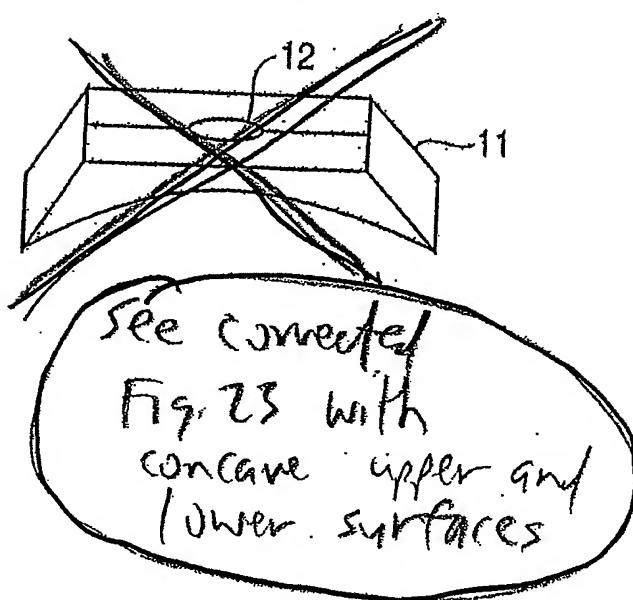
Respectfully submitted,

/Ronald J. Shore/ 
Ronald J. Shore
Registration No. 28,577
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

RJS/kmh

Attachments

APPENDIX

FIG. 21**FIG. 22****FIG. 23****FIG. 24**